

U.S.S.N. 09/785,593

Filed: February 16, 2001

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**Remarks****Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claims 11, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.

Claims 11, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 11 has been amended to recite "strengthening material" instead of "reinforcing material." Claim 14 has been amended to delete "said polymer comprises at least one." Claim 17 has been amended to recite "strengthening material comprises" instead of "polymer further comprises." Claim 18 has been amended to recite "a bioerodible polymer" instead of "said polymer." Claims 11, 14, 17 and 18, as amended, pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, are definite.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 8 and 12 were objected to for informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.

Claims 1, 8 and 12 have been amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 1 was amended to recite "includes" instead of "comprises." Claim 8 was amended to recite "the device further comprises" instead of "further comprises." Claim 12 was amended to recite "is" instead of "comprises." Claims 1, 8 and 12 as amended pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions are no longer objectionable.

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Allowance of claims 1, 4-8, 11-18, 20, 24-31 and 33 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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